



# 0500826

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 9, 2005

The Honorable Donald A. Manzullo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2228 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Congressman Manzullo:

Thank you for your letter, dated April 12, 2005, on behalf of Debbi Ramsey, a constituent from Rochelle, Illinois. Ms. Ramsey is concerned with recent proposals made by the Commission regarding the use of wireless telephones in airborne aircraft. In particular, she states that there is "no hard evidence" that cell phone use will not interfere with aircraft navigational instruments. In addition, she believes that the introduction of cellular telephones on airplanes will increase passenger tension, compromise flight attendants' ability to maintain order in an emergency, and possibly facilitate terrorist coordination. You ask that we review this matter and provide information that addresses Ms. Ramsey's concerns.

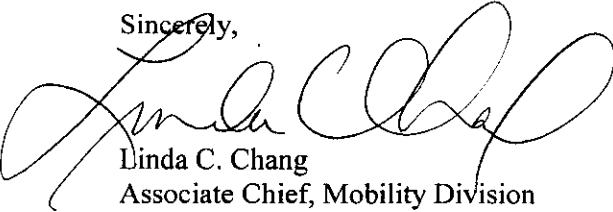
On February 15, 2005, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice)* in WT Docket No. 04-435 that proposes to relax the Commission's current ban on the use of 800 MHz cellular telephones in airborne aircraft, including airplanes. In 1991, the Commission adopted the current ban on the airborne use of cell phones out of concern that such use would interfere with terrestrial cellular networks. On the other hand, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates the use of cellular telephones, as well as other transmitting portable electronic devices (T-PEDs), on airplanes, out of concern that such devices might interfere with aircraft communications and navigation systems.

Since 1991, advances in technology appear to address the Commission's initial concerns of interference that warranted adoption of the ban. Consequently, the Commission believes that it may now be possible for the traveling public to use their cell phones while airborne without increasing the risk of interference to cellular systems on the ground. Accordingly, in the *Notice*, the Commission proposes to relax the ban on the airborne use of cellular telephones so long as the phones are controlled by a "pico cell" installed onboard private or commercial aircraft that directs the handsets to operate at or near their lowest applicable power settings. It also seeks comment on the practicality of an industry-initiated solution that would enable use of airborne cellular units without the FCC having to mandate technical rules. Finally, the *Notice* seeks comment as to whether the Commission should allow licensees to provide 800 MHz cellular service to airborne wireless units on a secondary basis, subject to certain technical limitations that would ensure no interference to terrestrial operations.

The public is encouraged to submit comments in this proceeding. The filing deadline for comments is May 26, 2005, and for reply comments it is June 27, 2005.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your letter, as well as this response, will be placed in the record of this proceeding. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Guy Benson, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at 202-418-2946, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda C. Chang", written in a cursive style.

Linda C. Chang  
Associate Chief, Mobility Division  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

DONALD A. MANZULLO  
CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE  
AND GOVERNMENT  
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL  
MONETARY POLICY,  
TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1316**  
**April 12, 2005**

13 APR 2005 KLV

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www.house.gov/manzullo

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW #8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Kevin:

I have been contacted by Debbi Ramsey, a constituent from Rochelle, Illinois who is inquiring about restrictions on cell phones on aircraft.

I have enclosed a copy of the original letter, and I would appreciate it if you could please provide us information that addresses Ms. Ramsey's concerns consistent with your applicable rules and regulations.

I know that the matter will be carefully and objectively reviewed, and I am grateful for any assistance you may be able to render. Please forward any correspondence to my staff assistant **Mary Ellen Brown** in my Washington D.C. office. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Donald A. Manzullo*

Donald A. Manzullo  
Member of Congress

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

2228 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5676  
(202) 225-5284 (Fax)

FLC  
**Brown, MaryEllen**

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**From:** writerep  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2005 11:01 PM  
**To:** IL16WYR  
**Subject:** WriteRep Responses

DATE: April 1, 2005 10:35 PM  
NAME: Debbi Ramsey  
ADDR1: 11913 Flagg Road  
ADDR2:  
ADDR3:  
CITY: Rochelle  
STATE: Illinois  
ZIP: 61068-9123  
PHONE:  
EMAIL: BigDogsRoc@comcast.net  
Message:

FCC Commissioners  
The Federal Communications Commission RE: Docket 04-435  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners ,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the FCC's proposal to relax the restrictions on the use of cell phones on airplanes in flight.

There is no hard evidence that cell phone use doesn't interfere with navigational instruments. The introduction of cell phone use in the cabin will not only increase tension among passengers, it will compromise flight attendants' ability to maintain order in an emergency. Cell phone use could also enable terrorists to coordinate a plan of action more effectively. It is annoying in a restaurant and in stores. People talk louder than normal on cell phones, so sitting on plane where you can't get away from them will put the stress level very high. It is stressful flying now days. Please do not let this bill pass. Please leave the current rules in effect.

Sincerely,

Debbi Ramsey  
11913 Flagg Road  
Rochelle, Illinois 61068

cc:  
Senator Dick Durbin  
Senator Barack Obama  
Representative Don Manzullo